

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application and Claims 1-22 are amended by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Action, the title was objected to as non-descriptive; Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite; Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kii et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0099661, herein "Kii"); and Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kii in view of Nakano (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0221097).

With regard to the rejection of Claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter, Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to recite computer readable storage medium claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite, Claims 1-22 have been significantly amended to clarify the features recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-22 now clearly recite the claimed invention and respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

With regard to the objection to the title, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be held in abeyance until the pending claims have been allowed, at which time, the title can be amended.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-22 under 35

U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kii, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 11 recites, in part,

receiving a service request accompanied by an information recording medium ID and a service ID from the information processing apparatus; and

verifying the information recording medium ID received;

acquiring a title-unique value on the basis of the information recording medium ID when the information recording medium ID is verified as valid;

acquiring service providing situation data corresponding to the title-unique value from a storage section, the service providing situation data including data for each of title-unique values corresponding to titles of content stored on information recording media;

judging whether or not a service requested by the service request including the information recording medium ID and the service ID is permitted based on the acquired service providing situation data; and

executing the service providing processing when the service is determined to be permitted.

Claims 1 and 21 recite corresponding apparatus and computer readable storage medium claims.

Kii describes a service offering system that provides services to package media such as mini-discs. Further, Kii describes that upon receipt of a service request from the user terminal device the management unit proceeds to offer the service if the request is judged to be valid.

However, Kii does not describe or suggest acquiring a title-unique value on the basis of the information recording medium ID when the information recording medium ID is verified as valid, acquiring service providing situation data corresponding to the title-unique value from a storage section, the service providing situation data including data for each of title-unique values corresponding to titles of content stored on information recording media and judging whether or not a service requested by the service request including the

information recording medium ID and the service ID is permitted based on the acquired service providing situation data, as is recited in Claim 11.

Thus, while the system of Kii merely describes checking the validity of the medium ID and the access right of the medium ID to receive content, the claimed invention recites acquiring service providing situation data corresponding to the title-unique value and judging whether or not a service requested is permitted based on the acquired service providing situation data.

In other words, the claimed invention recites acquiring service providing situation data which corresponds to a content title and basing permission for a requested service on the service providing situation data for the particular title. Thus, while in Kii an access right is determined based on the user terminal device 503, in the claimed invention permission for a requested service is based on service providing situation data corresponding to the title of content included in the medium.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 and similarly Claims 1 and 21 patentably distinguish over Kii.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 6, 16 and 22 also patentably distinguish over Kii.

Specifically, Claim 16 recites, in part,

accessing an information recording medium via a recording medium interface;
verifying an information recording medium ID read from the information recording medium via the recording medium interface; and
transmitting the information recording medium ID to the service providing server when the information recording medium ID is verified to be valid.

Claims 6 and 22 recite corresponding apparatus and computer readable medium claims.

As was noted above, Kii describes a service offering system that provides services to package media such as mini-discs. Further, Kii describes that when a user loads a package

medium 51 into the user terminal device 503, the device connects to the service provider 504 which authenticates the medium ID of the package medium 51.

However, Kii does not describe or suggest accessing an information recording medium via a recording medium interface, verifying an information recording medium ID read from the information recording medium via the recording medium interface and transmitting the information recording medium ID to the service providing server when the information recording medium ID is verified to be valid, as is recited in Claim 16.

In other words, while the claimed invention verifies the recording medium ID before transmitting the information recording medium ID to the service provided server, Kii describes that it is the service provider 504 and not the user terminal device 503 that performs authentication.

Thus, Kii cannot be asserted as corresponding to the features recited in Claim 16 as this reference does not describe or suggest all of the features recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 and similarly Claims 6 and 22 patentably distinguish over Kii.

Moreover, the further cited Nakano reference does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Kii with regard to the features of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-22 patentably distinguish over Kii and Nakano considered individually or in combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

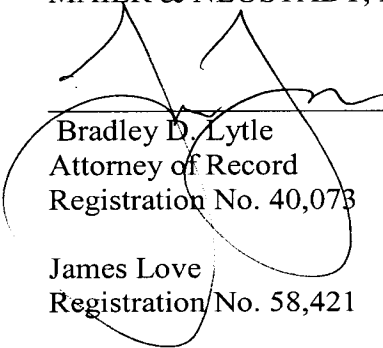
Respectfully submitted,

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